

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of treating particles to be used in immunoassays reduces interference in particle agglutination assays. For particles having covalently bound antibodies and residual NHS-ester or sNHS-ester groups on the surface, the reactive esters are treated with an aqueous mixture containing an amine compound of formula (I):



The moiety  $-\text{X}$  is  $-\text{NH}_2$ ,  $-\text{OH}$ , or  $-\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ; and  $\text{R}$  is an alkyl group or an alkyl ether group. When  $-\text{X}$  is  $-\text{NH}_2$  or  $-\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{R}$  contains from 1 to 20 carbon atoms; and when  $-\text{X}$  is  $-\text{OH}$ ,  $\text{R}$  contains from 4 to 20 carbon atoms.